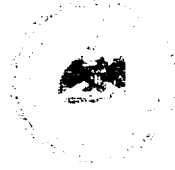


Mississippi Public Service Commission

NIELSEN COCHRAN, CHAIRMAN
JACKSON-FIRST DISTRICT

MICHAEL CALLAHAN, VICE CHAIRMAN
HATTIESBURG-SECOND DISTRICT

BO ROBINSON, COMMISSIONER
HAMILTON-THIRD DISTRICT



BRIAN U. RAY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
(601) 961-5400

WM BRUCE MCKINLEY, ATTORNEY
COMMISSION STAFF

BILL SUMMERS, DIRECTOR
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

WILLIE EARL MAY, CHIEF
LAW ENFORCEMENT

September 25, 2001

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Magalie R. Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445-12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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OCT 01 2001

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45, No. 00-256; October 1st Certification Requirement for Rural Carriers **FCC MAIL ROOM**

Dear Ms. Salas:

In accordance with the Federal Communication Commission's ("FCC") requirements in Federal/State Joint Board on Universal Service, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45 and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256, the Mississippi Public Service Commission hereby certifies that all federal high cost support provided to the following rural carriers will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996:

ALLTEL Mississippi, Inc.
Bruce Telephone Company, Inc.,
CenturyTel of North Mississippi, Inc.
Franklin Telephone Company, Inc.
Frontier Communications of Mississippi, Inc.
Lakeside Telephone Company
Georgetown Telephone Company, Inc.
Noxapater Telephone Company
Smithville Telephone Company, Inc.

Bay Springs Telephone Company
Calhoun City Telephone Company, Inc.
Delta Telephone Company, Inc.
Decatur Telephone Company
Fulton Telephone Company
Myrtle Telephone Company, Inc.
Mound Bayou Telephone Company
Sledge Telephone Company
Southeast Mississippi Telephone Company, Inc.

Attached is a copy of the Commission's order in its Docket No. 01-AD-573.

In accordance with the FCC's mandate, this certification letter is also being sent to Irene Flannery, Universal Service Administrative Company.

Sincerely,


Nielsen Cochran, Chairman


Michael Callahan, Vice-Chairman


Bo Robinson, Commissioner

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Enclosure

cc: Irene Flannery
Bobby Waites
Randy Tew
Vicki Helfrich
Brian Ray

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

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MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 00-256
FCC MAIL ROOM

IN RE: CERTIFICATION OF RURAL CARRIERS RECEIVING FEDERAL
UNIVERSAL SERVICE HIGH COST SUPPORT

ORDER

THIS DAY, there came on for consideration by the Mississippi Public Service Commission ("Commission") the need to certify to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and to the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") the rural carriers in Mississippi which will use all federal universal service support in accordance with § 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act).

After reviewing the entire record of this proceeding, including all plans and comments filed by ALLTEL Mississippi, Inc., Bay Springs Telephone Company, Bruce Telephone Company, Inc., Calhoun City Telephone Company, Inc., CenturyTel of North Mississippi, Inc., Delta Telephone Company, Inc., Franklin Telephone Company, Inc., Decatur Telephone Company, Frontier Communications of Mississippi, Inc., Fulton Telephone Company, Lakeside Telephone Company, Myrtle Telephone Company, Inc., Georgetown Telephone Company, Inc., Mound Bayou Telephone Company, Noxapater Telephone Company, Sledge Telephone Company, Smithville Telephone Company, Inc., and Southeast Mississippi Telephone Company, Inc. and upon the recommendation of the Public Utilities Staff, this Commission finds as follows:

1. On August 14, 2001, the Commission established this Docket to certify, pursuant to the FCC's mandate in Federal/State Joint Board on Universal Service, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256 that all federal universal service support provided to rural carriers in Mississippi will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended and consistent with § 254(e) of the 1996 Act.

2. The following rural carriers submitted plans and comments to ensure compliance with the FCC mandate and § 254(e) of the 1996 Act:

**ALLTEL Mississippi, Inc.
Bay Springs Telephone Company
Bruce Telephone Company, Inc.
Calhoun City Telephone Company, Inc.
CenturyTel of North Mississippi, Inc.
Delta Telephone Company, Inc.
Franklin Telephone Company, Inc.
Decatur Telephone Company
Frontier Communications of Mississippi, Inc.
Fulton Telephone Company
Lakeside Telephone Company
Myrtle Telephone Company, Inc.
Georgetown Telephone Company, Inc.
Mound Bayou Telephone Company
Noxapater Telephone Company
Sledge Telephone Company
Smithville Telephone Company, Inc.
Southeast Mississippi Telephone Company, Inc.**

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3. The Commission finds that based upon a review of each of the plans and comments filed by the above-named rural carriers, the Commission hereby certifies to the FCC that the above-identified rural carriers will utilize all federal universal service support only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended and consistent with § 254(e) of the 1996 Act.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED, that the Commission hereby certifies to the FCC and to the USAC, that the plans and comments of ALLTEL Mississippi, Inc., Bay Springs Telephone Company, Calhoun City Telephone Company, Inc., CenturyTel of North Mississippi, Inc., Delta Telephone Company, Inc., Franklin Telephone Company, Inc., Decatur Telephone Company, Frontier Communications of Mississippi, Inc., Fulton Telephone Company, Lakeside Telephone Company, Myrtle Telephone Company, Inc., Georgetown Telephone Company, Inc., Mound Bayou Telephone Company, Noxapater Telephone Company, Sledge Telephone Company, Smithville Telephone Company, Inc., and Southeast Mississippi Telephone Company, Inc. are consistent with the 1996 Act and the pertinent FCC orders and that each named carrier will utilize all federal high-cost universal service funding in accordance with § 254(e) of the 1996 Act and pertinent orders of the FCC.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this order and letter of certification shall be transmitted to the
FCC and to the USAC.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this order shall be effective upon its issuance.

SO ORDERED on this 24th day of September, 2001.

Chairman Nielsen Cochran voted Aye; Vice-Chairman Michael Callahan voted Aye

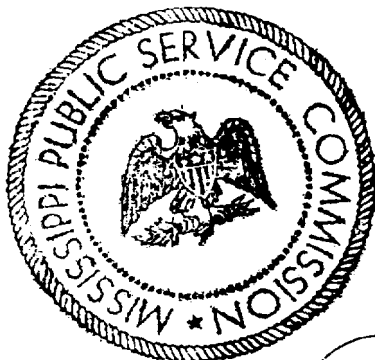
Commissioner Bo Robinson voted Aye.

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MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Nielsen Cochran

Nielsen Cochran, Chairman

Michael Callahan

Michael Callahan, Vice-Chairman

Bo Robinson

Bo Robinson, Commissioner

ATTEST: A True Copy

Brian U. Ray

BRIAN U. RAY
Executive Secretary